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West Coast Visions Initiative Guidelines

About this initiative

Screenwest's West Coast Visions initiative is a screen industry development program that provides production funding for low budget features that are to be produced in Western Australia.

Screenwest is committed to creating a development pathway for Western Australian creative teams. Screenwest will commit to \$750,000 of production funding in 2022 to one low budget feature film intended for worldwide distribution, under the West Coast Visions initiative.

West Coast Visions is designed to uncover, inspire and develop local talent and skills. The initiative supports talented and motivated writer/director/producer teams with distinctive visions who can best utilise this initiative to fulfill their professional potential.

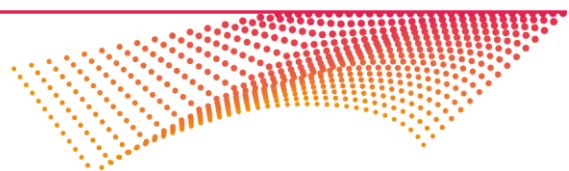
To be competitive, applicants will need a well-developed, budget-savvy and marketable feature film, surrounded by a team that can deliver the creative and logistical challenges of the project submitted.

To be viable, the applicant producer needs to have adequate experience, or have an experienced executive producer attached. The director needs to be able to show examples of work/short films that demonstrates their ability to direct this project.

There is no cap on the budget, however this initiative is aimed at low budget features. The producer must demonstrate firm evidence of how the balance of funding will be raised within a reasonable timeframe and clearly identify the audience/market potential.

What can I apply for?

- Up to \$750,000 per project.
- *Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.*



- *Screenwest may approve funding less than the requested amount, as guided by the recommendations made during the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.*

Am I Eligible?

To be considered eligible for this fund, the below general minimum eligibility applies.

Applicant / Company Eligibility

The applicant / company must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements as set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a resident Western Australian Producer/Production Company, as per the Terms of Trade.
3. Hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application.
4. Complete all production and post-production in Western Australia.

Team Eligibility

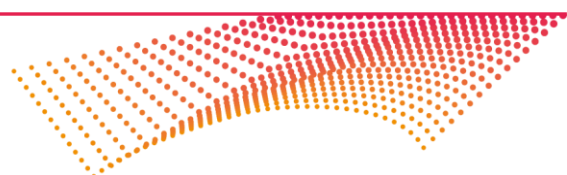
The team must:

1. Have a first time Western Australian feature film director attached (who has not had a theatrically released feature film credit or equivalent and will be credited in this position on this film).
2. Have at least one Western Australian producer or writer attached to be credited in this position on this film.

Project Eligibility

The project must:

1. Be a well-developed feature film intended for commercial worldwide distribution.
2. Be achievable in Western Australia within a one-year time frame.
3. Meet a minimum of six (6) points out of a possible 11, with at least two (2) of the points coming from the producer or writer, under the below points system:



WEST COAST VISIONS POINTS ALLOCATION TABLE

Position	Points allocation for a WA resident
Producer(s)	2
Writer(s)	2
Line Producer OR Production Manager	1
First AD	1
DOP	1
Production Designer	1
Costume Designer	1
Editor	1
*Flexible Points	1

Please note the following clarifications for the above point allocations:

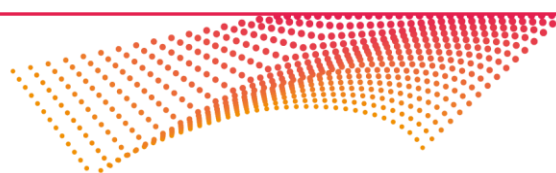
1. The maximum number of points that can be attributed to a position is the number stated in the above table. For example, a project that has two WA producers attached will receive a maximum of two (2) points.
2. *Flexible Points– these are floating points that can be attributed to a variety of outcomes that align with the current Screenwest Strategic Plan, and that haven't been accounted for in other areas of the points table. For example, significant ex-pat/s attachment, a high-profile West Australian cast member, or the project will provide a significant innovative opportunity. It will be up to the producer to make the case for this point allocation.
3. All other crew members will be expected to be WA residents or ex-pat/s unless otherwise agreed upon by Screenwest Management.
4. Please note that although the number of points determines eligibility, it is not the sole criteria for assessment.

What do I need to apply?

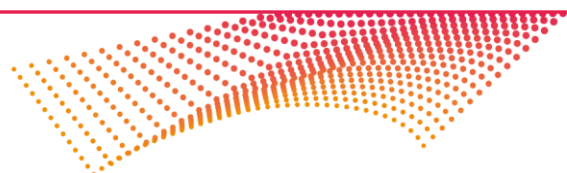
West Coast Visions is a two-stage application process.

Stage One – Submit application

Applicants will need to submit the following:



1. A completed Application Form on SmartyGrants, including any additional information, documentation and materials listed in the form.
2. Introductory cover letter
3. If the project has been submitted and declined funding previously, a document listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application is required.
4. A logline, one paragraph and one-page synopsis
5. Full screenplay
6. Director's vision statement
7. Director's creative support material (eg. story boards, concept drawings - if relevant)
8. Examples of the Director's previous work (via online link only)
 - Please submit no more than two examples via link and limit your material to under 20 mins. Assessors will watch no more than two examples
 - Please provide a summary of why this work best reflects your directorial voice and tone of the feature film
 - Please check your link/s work when submitting, as Screenwest may not have the opportunity to follow up on corrupt links
9. A pathway to audience strategy which includes:
 - a summary of the target audience
 - distribution plan
 - marketing and social outreach strategy
10. Any distributor/broadcaster interest/sales arrangements already in place
11. A detailed budget (preferably a Screen Australia A-Z budget), including a highlighted column that shows Qualifying WA Expenditure (QWAE). The Budget should include:
 - Allowance for the repayment of any development funding and interest occurred (including slate development recipient companies).
 - Allowance in the budget for National Film and Sound Archive delivery items.
 - If relevant, allowance in the budget to adequately cover the cost of cash-flowing the Producer Offset.
 - An allowance in the budget to cover the cost of a mentor for an under resourced skill gap. To be identified in consultation with Screenwest and the completion guarantor (Minimum allocation of \$10,000 required).
12. A COVID Risk Mitigation Plan, that is expected to be in line with the Australian Screen Production Industry COVID-Safe Guidelines, and that complies with applicable State and Federal Covid Legislation.
13. A letter of offer from a completion guarantor.
14. Provisional shooting schedule including an outline explaining your proposed production methodology and ideas around implementing strategy for managing cast/crew and potential workflows.
15. CVs of key creatives (e.g. producer, director, writer and any other committed heads of department e.g. production designer, editor, director of photography)
16. Letters of commitment from relevant creative heads of department (ie. production designer, editor, director of photography) or attached Cast. This will demonstrate how you will meet the minimum six (6) points allocation requirement



17. Breakdown of how the creative team meets the minimum six (6) points required to meet the WA eligibility requirements
18. Strong support notes from key creatives (eg. producer, writer and any other committed and relevant heads of department - e.g production designer, editor, director of photography)
19. All relevant Chain of Title documents should ideally be provided to Screenwest for approval at the time of application as Screenwest contracting will be contingent on such approval
20. Firm evidence of how the balance of funding (if any) will be raised within a reasonable timeframe, including Finance Plan and narrative. Projects with Producer Offset financing must include a statement on how the producer will cash flow the Producer Offset, a statement indicating the status of the project's Provisional Certification from Screen Australia and provision within the budget to adequately cover interest costs.

Additional material may be requested throughout the assessment process.

Shortlisting: Representatives from Screenwest and the screen industry will shortlist applicants at an assessment meeting.

If shortlisted, applicants will be notified as soon as practicable and may be required to provide additional material on request.

Stage Two – Shortlisted applicants meet with the Assessment Panel

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to outline their vision for the project in a series of meetings with the assessment panel. These will include, but are not limited to, an interview with the director and an interview with the team (e.g. writer, director, producer).

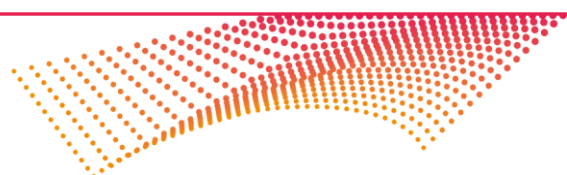
Each team will be expected to have evolved a practical and thematic approach to the realisation of the story within their budget. In the course of the application process, if any of the credits are being shared with a non-WA resident(s), the team will be required to define the collaborative nature of the project.

How is my application assessed?

Screenwest will assess all eligible applications against the following criteria:

Stage One

1. Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements under the West Coast Visions points allocation table
2. The quality of the overall proposal including script and all supporting materials
3. Evidence of a distinctive directorial voice and compelling storytelling style in the Director's Statement and in the example/s of the Director's previous works
4. Cultural and creative benefits of the project to Western Australia
5. The team's track record and the ability to deliver the project to a high standard



6. Identified development outcomes for the Western Australian screen industry
7. Achievability of the project within the year timeframe taking into consideration market interest and/or audience potential, finance plan, team's ability to deliver the project, and the budget.

Additionally, for Stage Two

1. The strength the Director interview and potential ability to execute the project
2. Strength of your pathway to audience strategy
3. The strength of the team demonstrating a united vision for realising the project.

Screenwest Management will also invite any unsuccessful teams (producer, director and writer) in for a feedback session.

Assessment Process & Timeline

Screenwest will follow this process in assessing applications for this program:

1. Screenwest will check the application meets the general minimum eligibility.
2. Eligible applications will be assessed at a panel, including at least two experienced industry practitioners, a Screenwest Board member and Management.
3. Panel funding recommendations over \$25,000 are taken to the Screenwest Board for final approval.

Diversity & Inclusion

Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through stories funded and practitioners supported.

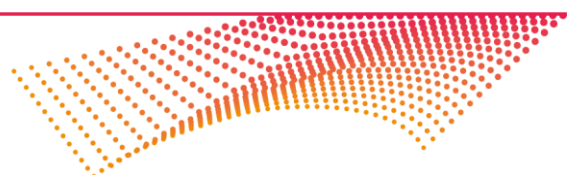
It is important that your team of key creatives authentically represent the story and characters in your application.

Screenwest recognises diversity broadly as differences in gender; age; Indigenous identity; cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD); disability; sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and ace (LGBTQIA+); location (including regional and remote regions) and socio-economic status.

Indigenous Story Content and Collaboration

Screenwest supports the telling of Indigenous stories by Indigenous creatives and storytellers.

Where this is not the case, we expect meaningful collaboration with the Indigenous communities whose stories they are.



Whenever there is Indigenous content and/or Indigenous community participation in the project or when there are Indigenous members of the team who do not have the authority to speak for the people or place being represented in the story, you will need to follow the checklists from [Pathways & Protocols: a film maker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts](#).

This includes a statement on how you are approaching the Indigenous content, (even if you believe the content is not specific to a community or individual), evidence of your collaboration to date and where relevant, signed letters of consent confirming community and/or individual's willingness to participate.

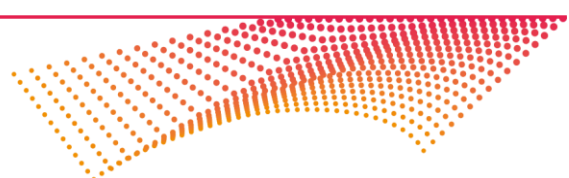
All projects involving Indigenous content or participation will be assessed by Indigenous Assessors.

What are the Terms of Funding?

- Funding will be provided as a grant.
- Successful applicants will enter into a written Production Grant Agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive their scheduled payments.
- Recipients are required to provide a written acquittal report detailing the outcomes achieved as a result of the funding. Aspects of these may be published on the Screenwest website following consultation with the applicant.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain and keep current, all necessary permissions, permits and Chain of Title documentation for the development, production and exploitation of the Project. Screenwest reserves the right to sight and approve the above at any time, upon written request to the Producer.

Deadlines and How to Apply

- Applications must be completed in full and submitted by **5:00pm AWST on 11 April 2022**.
- Acceptance of any additional application materials after this date is subject to Screenwest's discretion.
- Applications will be accepted through the Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal. Do not email applications directly to individual Screenwest staff members.
- You can start your application at any time once the portal opens. You can save your progress and return to it at any time before the deadline. **Do not start your application the day it is due.**



- An application receipt will be automatically forwarded to the applicant from SmartyGrants to confirm that Screenwest has received the application. **It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Screenwest if an application receipt has not been received within two working days.**
- If you are unable to submit an application online or having difficulties, please call Screenwest on [+61 8 6169 2100](tel:+61861692100) or [1800 463 043](tel:1800463043) (WA regional callers).

Who can I speak to about this initiative?

Tenille Kennedy, Scripted Executive
Screenwest

T: [\(08\) 6169 2107](tel:(08)61692107)

E: tenille.kennedy@screenwest.com.au

Toll Free: 1800 463 043 (regional callers)

www.screenwest.com.au

Please note that meetings with program contacts can be in high demand. It's best to telephone or email for an appointment or general advice well before planning to submit an application.

Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to discuss their applications before applying.

